(b) if so, what are the details of the foreign firms whom Govt. have invited for the said task;

(c) whether any indigenous firm has offered its services for the said task; and

(d) if so, what steps Govt. propose to take to encourage indigenous firms instead of foreign firms for the said task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government had invited bids from experienced international oil companies for 27 offshore blocks. The last date for receipt of bids was 1st December, 1986. Twelve offers have been received from seven oil companies for nine blocks as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Name of the block
1	(i) Albion International Resources Inc.	KG-OS-VII. C-OS-V.
	(ii) Alber-ford Resources Limited	
	(iii) Western Energy Resources Inc.	
	(iv) G.W. Resources Corporaiton	
	(v) Cordura Exploration Company	
2	AMOCO, USA	KG-OS-V
3	Britoil, UK	KG-OS-I
4	BHP Petroluem, Australia	KG-OS-I,KK-OS-VI
5	(i) Chevron	KG-OS-I. KG-OS-I,KG-OS-VII
	(ii) Texace	P-OS-II
6	International Petroleum Corporation Dubai	KG-OS-IV.
7	Shell International Petroleum, Netherlands	KK-OS-IV, KK-OS-II.

(c) and (d) Apart from this a letter from M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited was received offering to explore in Saurashtra offshore block without indicating the bid details that had been sought from the bidders. Clarifications were sought from them to which no reply has been received.

Exploration for Oil and Gas in M. P.

940. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has identified certain locations in Madhya Pradesh where oil and natural gas are likely to be struck;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the work in this connection is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) ONGC have identified locations at Anhoni, Tamia and Dewari to conduct parametric drilling. These are expected to provide information on subsurface geology of Gondwana sediments in Madhya Pradesh: further exploration, including drilling, would depend upon the data obtained.

Progress in Shifting of the LPG Bottling Plant from Shakurbasti, Delhi

941. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 242 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in shifting the LPG bottling plant from Shakurbasti, Delhi;

(b) whether the new sites for locating the LPG bottling plant have been developed and if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what safety measures are being provided at the new sites to aviod recurrence of incidents of fire and blast like the one which occurred in 1983 at the